



THE JOINT STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Vice Chief of Staff, US Army
Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Vice Chief of Staff, US Air Force
Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps
Deputy Commander, US Central Command
Chief of Staff, US European Command
Deputy Commander, US Joint Forces Command
Deputy Commander, US Northern Command
Deputy Commander, US Pacific Command
Deputy Commander, US Southern Command
Deputy Commander, US Special Operations Command
Deputy Commander, US Strategic Command
Deputy Commander, US Transportation Command

Subject: Joint Staff and Combatant Command Responsibilities for Safety

1. Two years ago a SecDef initiative to reduce overall mishap rates by 50 percent resulted in studying how the Department of Defense approaches safety. Key issues are the roles of the Joint Staff and combatant commands in a Department-wide safety approach. We need to integrate the Joint Staff and combatant command safety programs with the well-established Service safety programs.
2. There is limited safety guidance governing the joint operating environment; safety is widely accepted as a Service-only domain. However, discussions related to the SecDef initiative have challenged this assumption. There is a role for the joint community to establish a comprehensive, integrated approach to safety. Therefore, I am seeking your assistance in defining the role that will eventually be codified in directive guidance. Enclosed is a broad, high-level attempt to specify some joint and combatant command safety responsibilities. Request your staff review the enclosure and provide comments, additions, and deletions.
3. Please respond to my points of contact Lieutenant Colonel Mike Harvey at 703-693-8192 or Mr. Al Rice at 703-695-2424 by 15 April. Your input is critical to enhancing our safety programs.

WALTER L. SHARP
Lieutenant General, USA
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

Possible Joint Staff Safety Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Represent the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in all joint safety matters.
2. Focal point for developing joint safety doctrine
3. Facilitate the cross-flow of relevant safety data, trends, and risk mitigation strategies among combatant commands and Service safety centers.
4. Provide a safety advisory role between the combatant commands and the Services.

Possible Combatant Command Safety Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Integrate theater-specific safety guidance into all phases of contingencies, warfighting, and training.
2. Notify and coordinate risk management decisions with the DOD components, all affected commands, and as appropriate, affected allied forces and local and host-nation government officials and citizens.
3. Ensure the safety readiness of allocated forces. Facilitate the cross-flow of relevant safety data, trends, and risk mitigation strategies among combatant command components and Service safety centers.
4. Publish Combatant Command specific joint safety directives.
5. Execute safety Memorandums of Agreement with Service Safety Centers.